



State of Wisconsin
2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

LRB-1994/1
CMH:cjs:cs

2015 ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 6

March 17, 2015 – Introduced by Representative MURPHY. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** celebrating Saint Patrick's Day on March 17, 2015.

2 Whereas, March 17 is Saint Patrick's Day, a day honoring the patron saint of
3 Ireland; and

4 Whereas, Saint Patrick was born in Kilpatrick, near Dumbarton, Scotland, in
5 AD 387; captured and enslaved by Irish marauders at the age of 16; converted to
6 Christianity; escaped slavery; entered the clergy; was named bishop of Ireland;
7 returned to Ireland; converted Irish pagans to Christianity; established many
8 monasteries, churches, and schools all over Ireland; and died on March 17, in AD 461;
9 and

10 Whereas, Irish monks and scholars at the monasteries and schools founded by
11 Saint Patrick preserved much of the learning that was lost throughout the rest of
12 Europe during the collapse of the Western Roman Empire; and

13 Whereas, natives of Ireland began moving to Wisconsin during the 1840s,
14 driven in part by the wake of the Great Famine; and

1 Whereas, Irish immigrants in Wisconsin principally settled in Brown,
2 Calumet, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green, Green
3 Lake, Iowa, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, La Crosse, Lafayette, Manitowoc,
4 Marquette, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Racine, Rock, St. Croix, Sauk,
5 Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, and Winnebago counties; and

6 Whereas, on September 8, 1860, the steamer, Lady Elgin, sank off the bluffs
7 near Winnetka, Illinois, taking the lives of 297 people, including many of the
8 Irish-American political leaders from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and marking the end
9 of the Irish domination of Milwaukee politics; and

10 Whereas, Irish immigrants constituted the majority of the 17th Wisconsin
11 Infantry, which fought in many of the bloodiest battles of the American Civil War,
12 including the Battles of Vicksburg, Shiloh, and Corinth; and

13 Whereas, the 17th Wisconsin Infantry contained company names, such as the
14 Mulligan Guards of Kenosha, the Peep O'Day Boys of Racine, and the Emmett
15 Guards of Dodge; and

16 Whereas, the 17th Wisconsin Infantry led a fearless bayonet charge at the
17 Battle of Corinth with the Irish Gaelic battle cry, "Faugh a ballagh!" which translates
18 as "Clear the way!"; and

19 Whereas, the Smithsonian Institution's National Folk Life program named
20 Milwaukee's Irish Fest the "largest and best Irish cultural event in North America";
21 and

22 Whereas, 11 percent of Wisconsin residents claimed to be of Irish descent for the
23 U.S. Census in 2000, making Irish ancestry in Wisconsin second only to those
24 claiming German heritage; and

Whereas, though originally a solemn Catholic holy day, Saint Patrick's Day has evolved into a much more secular holiday celebrating Irish music, culture, and heritage; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the assembly, That the members of the Wisconsin assembly salute all of the persons of Irish descent for their significant contributions to this state, express appreciation for those persons who have kept alive Irish culture and traditions, and join with all Wisconsinites who revere their Irish heritage in celebrating Saint Patrick's Day on March 17, 2015.

(END)